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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT**26 JANUARY 2018**

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fresno – Federal Authorities Arrest Man with 221 Illegal Firearms

(U) Federal authorities have confiscated more than 200 guns after arresting a central California man and charged him with selling firearms without a license. US Attorney MacGregor Scott said yesterday that a federal grand jury also indicted 39-year-old James Bowen on being a felon in possession of a gun and possessing an unregistered gun. Federal agents raided Bowen's Fresno home last week after he allegedly agreed to sell two assault-style rifles to an undercover officer. Officers seized 221 firearms, including a suspected machine gun. They also seized five silencers.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) San Diego – 32 More Flu Deaths Bring Season Total to 174

(U) San Diego County health officials reported another 32 influenza-related deaths, further increasing this season's record number of flu deaths. The County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) said 32 new flu-related deaths were reported last week. This brings the tally for this season to 174 deaths; the HHSA said this includes 20 deaths of people who were under 65 years old. The county said the number of fatalities this flu season is the highest it's ever been for the county since officials began tracking flu-related deaths approximately 20 years ago. Local emergency rooms report that influenza-like illnesses are making 9 percent of emergency room visits.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [NBC Los Angeles](#)

(U) Santa Clara – 15 Million Users Hit with Cryptocurrency Mining Campaign

(U) A new cryptocurrency mining campaign has infected over 15 million users across the globe. The new campaign, which involves hackers leveraging the XMRig Monero miner, has hit South America, Southeast Asia and northern Africa the hardest. According to security researchers at Palo Alto Networks, who discovered the attack, the new Monero mining campaign has been active for around four months. The hackers behind the campaign have already made several updates to the cryptocurrency mining malware, changing their tactics every month or so. The campaign involved hackers making use of the URL shortened Bitly to trick victims into clicking on malicious ads. Once users clicked on the malicious ads, they unwittingly download the XMRig miner.

SOURCE: 26 January 2018, [International Business Times](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Alabama – Two Men Arrested for Calling Bomb Threats to Court House

(U) Birmingham – Two men are in jail for making a series of bomb threats to a courthouse, according to the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. On Monday, a man called the warrant office inside the Jefferson County Courthouse. He said there was an explosive device inside the building and that people had 10 minutes to get out. The courthouse was evacuated, and explosive detection dogs were used to search

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the building. No explosive devices were found. Police arrested Malik Levi Senior and charged him with making a terroristic threat. Police also arrested Brandon Rashad Kyle, after three more calls came into the courthouse. Kyle was also charged with making a terroristic threat.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [CBS 42](#)

(U) Illinois – More Birth Defects in Zika Present Areas

(U) Chicago – Yesterday, the CDC reported that the mosquito-borne Zika virus may be responsible for an excess number of birth defects in US states and territories where the virus had been circulating in local mosquito populations, even in women who had no lab evidence of Zika exposure during pregnancy. Areas with local Zika transmission, including southern Florida, a portion of south Texas and Puerto Rico, saw a 21 percent increase in birth defects strongly linked with Zika during the last half of 2016 - when Zika was present - compared with the first half of that year. Researchers said it is not clear whether the increase is due to local transmission of Zika alone, or other contributing factors.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Mexico – Police Find 100 Lbs. of Fentanyl in Multi-Drug Stash**

(U) Ensenada – Mexican federal police say they located a multi-drug shipment that included 100 pounds of the powerful synthetic opioid fentanyl. The drug shipment also included 914 pounds of crystal meth, 88 pounds of cocaine and 18.5 pounds of heroin. Police arrested a man who was driving a sport utility vehicle stuffed with the drug, the drugs were so bulky they were stuffed into a pile of sacks that filled the rear of the van. Fentanyl can be fatal in doses of just a few milligrams.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Netherlands – Intelligence Agency Spied on Russian Hacking Group

(U) Amsterdam – The Dutch Intelligence Agency AIVD spied on the Russian group believed to be behind the hack of the Democratic Party ahead of US elections. The Moscow-based group known as Cozy Bear is widely suspected of hacking the Democratic Party and is believed to be linked to the Russian government. Agents with the AIVD gained access to the group's headquarters and between 2014 and 2017 passed along information to the US Central Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency. The Dutch intelligence may have contributed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation inquiry into alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER**(U) California – \$712 Million Worth of Cocaine Seized in November 2017**

(U) San Diego – The Coast Guard yesterday began unloading more than \$721 million worth of cocaine seized in the eastern Pacific Ocean, including some that was located with the help of drone surveillance that a Coast Guard vice admiral called "a game-changer." Between late November and early January, more than 47,000 pounds of cocaine were seized in 23 separate interdictions by US and Canadian forces operating in international waters off the coast of Central America and South America, officials said.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) Texas – 75 Foot Tunnel Found Along Border

(U) El Paso – A 75-foot tunnel was discovered south of downtown El Paso yesterday. An agent with Border Patrol El Paso sector said agents patrolling around a water treatment plant were notified of a makeshift tunnel north of the Sante Fe International Bridge. Agents were notified of the tunnel when

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employees from the Texas Department of Transportation discovered it, after a cave-in that happened during construction along a roadway. Agents with the Confined Space Teams learned that the tunnel measured 25 yards into Mexico. Authorities do not know how long the tunnel has been in place.

SOURCE: 25 January 2018, [KOMO News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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